Privatisation of SEBs

1876. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some State Governments propose to privatize their Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, whether Central Government's clearance is required in this respect; and

(c) how many State Governments have so far approached the Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Privatization of distribution of electricity by the States is one of the options envisaged for bringing about a turnaround in distribution.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

Orissa dues to NTPC

1877. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa State owes huge amount to NTPC in the power sector;

(b) whether the State Government has made a request to the Centre to solve the crisis; and

(c) if so, the help rendered by the Centre to tide over the existing crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The outstanding dues as on 31.7.2003 owed by GRIDCO to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) amount to Rs.2263.54 crores, out of which an amount of Rs. 313.81 crores is covered by GRIDCO bonds and another Rs.400 crores by way of bonds issued by the distribution companies of Orissa to GRIDCO. GRIDCO is not servicing these bonds and the total outstanding interest on these bonds amount to Rs.294.92 crores. Thus the details of the amount payable by GRIDCO to NTPC as on 31.07.2003 is as under: